

descriptions. Similar policy on this subject was incorporated into FAR on August 16, 1999 (64 FR 32741, June 17, 1999; Federal Acquisition Circular 97-12, Item II).

This rule was not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under Executive Order 12866, dated September 30, 1993.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

This final rule does not constitute a significant revision within the meaning of FAR 1.501 and Public Law 98-577 and publication for public comment is not required. However, DoD will consider comments from small entities concerning the affected DFARS subparts in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 610. Such comments should cite DFARS Case 99-D023.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the rule does not impose any information collection requirements that require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Parts 211, 214, and 252

Government procurement.

Michele P. Peterson

Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.

Therefore, 48 CFR parts 211, 214, and 252 are amended as follows:

1. The authority citation for 48 CFR parts 211, 214, and 252 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 41 U.S.C. 421 and 48 CFR Chapter 1.

PART 211—DESCRIBING AGENCY NEEDS

211.270 [Removed and Reserved]

2. Section 211.270 is removed and reserved.

211.270-1 and 211.270-2 [Removed]

3. Sections 211.270-1 and 211.270-2 are removed.

PART 214—SEALED BIDDING

214.202-5 [Amended]

4. Section 214.202-5 is amended in paragraph (d) by removing the reference "252.211-7003" and adding in its place the reference "FAR 52.211-6".

PART 252—SOLICITATION PROVISIONS AND CONTRACT CLAUSES

252.211-7003 [Removed and Reserved]

5. Section 252.211-7003 is removed and reserved.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 635

[Docket No. I.D. 071698B]

RIN 0648-AJ67

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fisheries; Vessel Monitoring Systems

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Delay of effectiveness.

SUMMARY: NMFS further delays the effective date of a final rule which required vessel owner/operators to install a NMFS-approved vessel monitoring system (VMS) by January 1, 2000. This document delays the effective date until June 1, 2000.

DATES: On May 28, 1999, NMFS published a final rule amending § 635.69, which established an effective date of September 1, 1999. On August 9, 1999, NMFS delayed the effective date of this final rule until January 1, 2000 (64 FR 43101). This document further delays the effective date until June 1, 2000. The effectiveness of an amendment to §635.69 published July 13, 1999 (64 FR 37705) is also delayed until June 1, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan (HMS FMP), the final rule and supporting documents can be obtained from Rebecca Lent, Chief, Highly Migratory Species Division, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jill Stevenson, NMFS, (301) 713-2347, or Buck Sutter (727) 570-5447.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The final regulations to implement the HMS FMP, and Amendment 1 to the Atlantic Billfish Fishery Management Plan included a provision requiring an owner or operator of a commercial vessel permitted to fish for Atlantic HMS under § 635.4 and that fishes with a pelagic longline to install a NMFS-approved VMS unit on board the vessel and operate the VMS unit whenever the vessel leaves port with pelagic longline gear on board. The VMS requirement of the final rule was to be effective September 1, 1999.

At the time of publication of the final rule (May 28, 1999), NMFS indicated that a **Federal Register** announcement would be forthcoming listing the hardware specifications for approved VMS units. Due to unforeseen circumstances, NMFS experienced a delay in type-approving suitable units and service providers. Once the type approval process was completed, NMFS published a **Federal Register** document (September 9, 1999, 64 FR 48988) listing NMFS-approved VMS units and communication service providers. In order to allow affected Atlantic HMS pelagic longline fishermen an opportunity to receive adequate notification of approved VMS units, as well as time to purchase and properly install a VMS unit for operation consistent with provisions provided under § 635.69, NMFS delayed until January 1, 2000, the effective date of the final rule (August 9, 1999, 64 FR 43101).

Since that time, NMFS has been developing additional time/area closures to reduce the incidental catch of fish, marine mammals, and other species in the pelagic longline fishery. It is unlikely that such new time/area closures will be implemented prior to June 2000. Therefore, NMFS delays the effective date of the VMS requirements until June 1, 2000, consistent with the current time/area closure in the Mid-Atlantic Bight and any new time/area closures.

Dated: October 7, 1999.

Gary C. Matlock,

Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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